

November 24, 2003  
Case No.: DP-304354 (7500/51)  
Serial No.: 09/822,916  
Filed: March 30, 2001  
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**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As will be described and shown more fully herein, a predetermined tensile force is applied to the upper and lower assemblies **16, 18; 12, 14** (by, for example, a testing device manufactured by Instron Corporation, and shown generally at **FIG. 2**). The tensile force stretches the fastener (not shown) across the joint **19**. An instrument in the fastener detects the amount of strain in the fastener and an associated processor assigns a value corresponding to the amount of strain detected by the instrument. The instrument can be, for example, a fiber-optic sensor. The value represents the amount of strain in the fastener at the predetermined tensile force.